

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The directors of the leading Yugoslav communist newspaper Borba expect a "coup" by Tito to free himself from the control of the Central Committee of the Federation of Communists of Yugoslavia, FCY<sup>1</sup>. The Central Committee is divided into two distinct factions:
  - a. The first faction advocates the continuance of Tito communism with Western support. Its members include Tito, Milovan Djilas, Mosa Pijade, Vladimir Dedijer, Blagoje Neskovic and Djuric.<sup>2</sup>
  - b. The second group advocates pursuit of a Lenin - Stalin type of communism. This faction includes the Slovene group of Edvard Kardelj, Ales Bebler, Miha Marinko and the Croat, Vladimir Bakaric.
2. Although Tito enjoys the support of the Yugoslav Army, his coup is being delayed until the outcome of the struggle in the state security forces and the militia, since Aleksandar Rankovic, the former Minister of State Security (UDB), is not yet committed to either faction.
3. Antagonisms between the Serb, Croat and Slovene members of the Central Committee and the Party in general have never been so outspoken.
4. It is anticipated that Rankovic will commit himself during the Fourth Party Plenum in late March. If he does not, Tito is expected to compromise him and assume control over the secret police.

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5. Rankovic is next on the purge list.

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1. [REDACTED] may have said or meant "purge" rather than "coup".

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2. [REDACTED] Comment: The Djuric mentioned above probably refers to Blagoje Djuric who was purged in late 1952 for making a wild attack at the Sixth Party Congress against Party immorality. All those included in this category, assuming the acceptance of Blagoje Djuric, except Tito and Pijade have been purged. Neskovic was removed from his important Party and Government posts in 1952 for allegedly displaying "softness toward Cominformism".

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